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29. (Newly Added) The motor according to claim 28, wherein said phosphate coating is a paint which includes an aluminum phosphate.

REMARKS

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims amended : 26-27

Claims retained as is : none

Claims added : 28-29

Claims cancelled : 1-25

Claims now in this application : 26-29

Independent claims now in this application (total 2) : 26, 28

Claims 26-29 are pending in the present application. The drawings are objected to for not showing the features of claims 4 and 22. Claims 10-18 are withdrawn from consideration as being independent or distinct. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 19, 22, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ward et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,221,503 in view of Schultz et al., U. S Patent No. 5,137,587. Claims 1-5, 7, 19-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Sakamoto, U.S. Patent No. 5,780,944 in view of Lee e al., U.S.

Patent No 5,298,826 and Schultz et al. Claims 6 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over either of the previous combinations and further in view of Tanaka et al., JP 361,210,857. Claims 8-9 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over either of the first two combinations and further in view of Mita et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,684,352. Claims 28 -29 are newly added.
(Note that a corresponding amount of claims have been cancelled.)

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings for not showing the features recited in claims 4 and 22. As claims 4 and 22 are cancelled, it is respectfully requested that all objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for not properly depending from another claim. As claim 21 is cancelled, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 1-9 and 19-27 as obvious. As claims 1-9 and 19-25 are cancelled, a discussion of rejections of these claims is moot. Regarding the rejection of claims 26-27, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 26 recites, in part:

a substantially doughnut shaped molded body of a mixture of magnetic powder of SmFeN and a resin binder, said molded body having at least one North pole and at least one South pole at alternating positions along a circumference of the molded body; and
a phosphate coating entirely covering an outside surface of the molded body.

These limitations are not taught by the cited art. The present invention is directed to a rotor magnet covered with a phosphate coating. Since the phosphate coating is coated so as to entirely cover the molded body, it is possible to provide a rotor magnet that has improved corrosion resistance and coating adherence. This feature results from the fact that unstable Fe included in the SmFeN magnet is combined with the phosphate coating. Thus, it is possible to reduce the unstable Fe as a cause of rust and use the Fe to react with the phosphate.

To the contrary, Mita et al. disclose an oxidation preventing coating formed on the surface of the magnet elements, and aluminum is among the selected material group of antioxidation materials. This reference, however, fails to teach or suggest phosphate as a coating. In addition, this reference fails to teach or suggest Fe combining with the phosphate.

In addition, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide a teaching for a phosphate coating in combination with Fe as claimed in accordance with the Manual for Patent Examining Procedure §2144.03.

Accordingly, as the cited art fails to teach or suggest the present invention, it is respectfully requested that all rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

It is further noted that the phosphate coating is not a new issue as it was in the claims as of the last Office Action.

Newly Added Claims

It is respectfully submitted that newly added claims 28-29 are allowable over the cited art for reciting magnetic powder of SmFeN and a resin binder and a phosphate coating. It is further submitted that these claims do not raise a new issue as the subject matter of these claims was pending as of the last Office Action.

For the convenience of the Examiner, APPENDIX III is provided herewith having a complete set of pending claims with all amendments effected therein.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX I**AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN
BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING**

26. (Amended) [The] A rotor magnet comprising: [according to claim 19, wherein]

a substantially doughnut shaped molded body of a mixture of magnetic powder of SmFeN and a resin binder, said molded body having at least one North pole and at least one South pole at alternating positions along a circumference of the molded body; and

a phosphate coating [is provided on said rotor magnet] entirely covering an outside surface of the molded body.

27. (Amended) The rotor magnet according to claim 26, wherein said phosphate coating is a paint which includes an aluminum phosphate[paint].

APPENDIX II**AMENDED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPHS WITH AMENDMENTS
INDICATED THEREIN BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING**

Page 8: delete the 1st full paragraph:

[Further, when a stepping motor is used under an environment which is difficult to produce rust, the above-described coating may not be provided. In this case, the coating forming treatment is dispensed with and accordingly, fabrication cost can be restrained.]

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APPENDIX III

ALL PENDING CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS EFFECTED THEREIN

26. (Amended) A rotor magnet comprising:

a substantially doughnut shaped molded body of a mixture of magnetic powder of SmFeN and a resin binder, said molded body having at least one North pole and at least one South pole at alternating positions along a circumference of the molded body; and

a phosphate coating entirely covering an outside surface of the molded body.

27. (Amended) The rotor magnet according to claim 26, wherein said phosphate coating is a paint which includes an aluminum phosphate.

Please add the following claim.

28. (Newly Added) A motor comprising:

a stator; and

a rotor magnet, said rotor magnet having:

a substantially doughnut shaped molded body of a mixture of magnetic powder of SmFeN and a resin binder, said molded body having at least one North pole and at least one South pole at alternating

positions along a circumference of the molded body;

and

a phosphate coating entirely covering an outside
surface of the molded body.

29. (Newly Added) The motor according to claim 28, wherein said phosphate
coating is a paint which includes an aluminum phosphate.